



Informational Notes for First Responders and Officials

Bulletin #43– January 16, 2004

Threat Level Lowered to Yellow/Elevated on January 9

On January 9, Dept. of Homeland Security announced over the National Warning System that the threat level has been lowered to Yellow/Elevated. In a press conference DHS Director Tom Ridge said, “We are still concerned about the continued threats, but the threat conditions that we’ve been following have diminished. With the passing of the holidays and many large gatherings that occurred during this time, we have made the decision to come down to Yellow. Returning to Yellow still means that we’re at an elevated level of risk. And we will maintain particular vigilance around some critical resources and locales.”

Ridge continued, “In the last three weeks, important steps increased this nation’s level of protection. For example, we issued aviation emergency amendments to enhance security relating to passenger and commercial aircraft flying to, from and over the United States, and provided air cover to several of our nation’s cities. We deployed state-of-the-art sensor detection equipment that can readily scan for radiological devices and bio-agents. We launched US-VISIT, a program that uses biometrics to expedite the processing of foreign travelers and stop known or suspected terrorists at our borders. Everything we do is designed to keep ...this country moving.”

3 Missouri Teams “On Alert” Status During Orange/High Alert Level

Missouri’s Task Force 1, MO-1 DMAT and the National Guard’s Civil Support Team were all “On Alert” status when the Department of Homeland Security raised the National Threat level to “Orange/High” in December. MO-1 DMAT is located in St. Louis. Missouri Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue is located in Boone County. The Guard’s Civil Support Team is located at Fort Leonard Wood. “Alert” puts the teams on a short deployment notice. If they are deployed, the teams must be ready to travel to their assignment within a few hours.

Earthquake Awareness Week Activities Set for Feb 1-7

The campaign has been emailed to all Emergency Management Directors in the 47 counties. A press release listing the activities has been emailed to all media in the 47 counties. The 2004 Earthquake Awareness Campaign can be downloaded from the SEMA homepage: <http://sema.dps.mo.gov>

Monday, February 2, the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission (MSSC) will host an informational meeting from 1-4 p.m. at Hearing Room #2 in the Capitol building. The meeting focuses on Missouri’s earthquake hazards, earthquake insurance, and SAVE Coalition efforts. Dr. Buddy Schweig of the University of Memphis will discuss the USGS Earthquake Hazards mapping project on ground movement and structural building damages for the St. Louis area.

Thursday, February 5, the MSSC will host a free business seminar from 8 a.m. - noon, at the Ameren Corporate Headquarters in downtown St. Louis. Topics include earthquake hazards, structural building retrofit, business safety, business emergency operations centers, and business earthquake insurance.

Saturday, February 7, families can enjoy hands-on activities, a “earthquake knowledge hunt,” and exhibits at the St. Louis Science Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Exhibitors include SEMA, several universities, CUSEC, USGS, FEMA, the Mid-America Earthquake Center, the New Madrid Chapter of Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), the American Red Cross, Jefferson County CERT, and St. Louis engineering firms specializing in seismic design and retrofit. A representative of the SAVE Coalition (Structural Assessment Visual

Evaluation) will be available to discuss ACT-20 post-earthquake damage assessment classes with potential volunteers.

Techni Graphic Systems Receives GIS Mapping Contract

The National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (formerly known as the National Imagery & Mapping Agency) contracted with Techni Graphic Systems Inc (Joshua Marcum) to plot critical facilities for the Department of Homeland Security. Techni Graphic Systems will create a GIS based database of law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical and hospital locations nationwide. The TGS will obtain available database information on those specific locations and then convert the data to a GIS format. This information will not be available commercially. TGS will only be interested in obtaining address and POC information only – any other information relating to Missouri locations is outside the scope of the contract. Based on the preliminary contacts, there is no reason to believe this is not a legitimate project. If you have any questions contact SEMA's Tom Mohr at (573) 9245 or by email: tom.mohr@sema.dps.mo.gov

Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) Grant

Work continues on the review and update of 159 Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs) that were funded through a FEMA Homeland Security Grant. The contractor for this project, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., has been given an extension past the December 31, 2003 deadline to complete the LEOPs. The contractor began delivery of final plans the end of December 2003 and expects to have all LEOPs delivered to local jurisdictions by mid to late February 2004. Jurisdictions will receive five bound copies of the revised LEOP and one copy on CD. Upon receipt of the final plan from The Louis Berger Group, jurisdictions should request payment for the third and final invoice from SEMA and follow up with payment to the contractor as soon as possible.

For those jurisdictions that are updating their LEOP themselves (chose Option 2), final invoices and requests for payment should be submitted to SEMA upon completion of the final plan.

The SEMA Area Coordinators have been working closely with the local jurisdictions and the contractor on this planning project. Please contact your Area Coordinator if you have any questions.

CERT Efforts Get Boost With New On-Line Course Offering

FEMA has unveiled an on-line, independent study course that can serve as either an introduction to those joining Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) or as a refresher to current volunteer team members.

CERT is a Citizen Corps program. CERT members work with a community's emergency management officials to provide assistance in a disaster by helping victims, organizing spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site, and supporting emergency responders. Specialists at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute developed the home study course, Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams, IS 317. Topics covered are: an introduction to CERT, fire safety, hazardous material and terrorist incidents, disaster medical operations, and search and rescue. The course can be downloaded: www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is317.asp.

FEMA Creates Mutual Aid Website

FEMA has developed a website specifically for its Mutual Aid project. You will find the first initiative product on the website: http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/mutual_aid.shtm.

Missouri Fire Departments Receive Firefighter Grants

FEMA announced 14 Missouri Fire Departments recently received Fire Grants. Fire Departments receiving grants for Fire Operations & Firefighter Safety were: Butler FD (\$27,066); Fair Grove FPD (\$70,315); Hume City VFD (\$5,909); Independence FD (\$327,369); Lake Estates VFD (\$48,251); Liberty FD (\$51,214); Rock Community FPD (\$19,440); and Nevada FD (\$71,833),

Fire Departments receiving grants for Fire Fighting Vehicles were: Belle VFD (\$117,000); Jasper Farmers FPD (\$157,500); Lewistown Volunteer FD (\$52,155); Plato Rural FPA (\$90,000); and Pleasant Hope FD (\$37,800).

Fire Departments receiving grants for Fire Prevention were: Neosho FD (\$50,144).

SEMA Training Courses Have Student Openings

State Training Officer Jim Charrier announced these several courses have openings for potential students. If there are not enough students, these classes might be in danger of being canceled. If you are interested in attending one of these classes, please register on line at the SEMA homepage or download the application and fax it to Tina Brown or Becky Imhoff in Training at: (573) 634-7966.

Feb. 2-4:	Hazardous Weather & Flooding	Raymore
Feb. 4-5:	WMD Medical Considerations	Springfield
Feb. 10-12:	CERT T-t-T	St. Joseph
Feb. 24-25:	ICS/EOC Interface (POST)	Independence
Feb 24-26:	Emergency Response to Terrorism T-t-T (POST)	Jefferson City
Mar 3-5:	Basic PIO Course	Springfield
Mar 9-11:	Effective Communications (POST)	Kansas City
Mar 23-25:	Exercise Design & Evaluation (POST)	Chillicothe

Community Planning Fellowship Program by FEMA and EPA

FEMA is sponsoring a Community Planning Fellowship designed to help graduate-level planning students learn to incorporate hazard mitigation into community planning practices. The Multi-hazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences manages the fellowship program. The Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds of the Environmental Protection Agency is joining FEMA this year by providing funding for an additional fellow (total of 3) to study how communities, regional organizations, and states can effectively address watershed planning and floodplain management issues. The deadline for submitting the application is January 26, 2004. A copy of the announcement and application is available at www.nibs.org/MMC/mmcactiv4.html.

Dam Safety Officials Announce Scholarship Program

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials has a scholarship program that will award up to \$5,000 for the 2004/2005 school year. Successful recipients must be U.S. citizens and enrolled full time at the senior level in an accredited civil engineering program, and must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in hydraulics, hydrology or geo-technical disciplines, or in another discipline related to the design, construction and operation of dams. Applications must be submitted by March 31. More information is available on the ASDSO web site at www.damsafety.org.

Businesses in 55 Counties Eligible for Drought Related SBA Loans

The drought beginning January 1, 2003 and continuing may have caused many farmers and ranchers to experience crop losses. As a result, they may not have been able to purchase goods and services at normal levels from local businesses in the designed 55 counties. Businesses may apply for an SBA economic injury loan to help meet long-term debt, accounts payable and overhead expenses that might have been met if the drought had not occurred. While farmers and ranchers may not apply for an SBA loan, nurseries may apply for SBA assistance. The deadline for filing an SBA loan application is August 19, 2004.

The 55 counties are: Audrain, Barry, Bollinger, Boone, Callaway, Cape Girardeau, Christian, Clark, Cole, Crawford, Dade, Dent, Franklin, Gasconade, Greene, Howard, Iron, Jasper, Jefferson, Knox, Laclede, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln Macon, Madison, Maries, Marion, McDonald, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, Newton, Osage, Perry, Phelps, Pike, Pulaski, Ralls, Randolph, Scotland, Scott, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, Stone, Texas, Warren, Washington, Webster, and Wright.

The SBA also noted that the drought effecting a crop cycle from July 1 – August 20, 2003 is also eligible for SBA economic injury assistance for businesses, and nurseries in the City of St. Louis, Perry, St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve counties. The deadline to file for an SBA loan application is August 19, 2004.